MARVEL
14th Dec.'85
№39 30p
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC AUTOBOT
Optimus Prime:
AUTOBOT KILLER!

PRIME TIME!

SIX MILES ABOVE THE OREGON COUNTRYSIDE, THE THIN AIR VIBRATES WITH THE THUNDERING CRACK OF A SONIC BOOM...
BA-
ROOM
...AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, WITH THE DELIGHTED SQUEAL OF A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT'S EXCITEMENT...
WOW! THIS IS GREAT!

BOB BUDIANSKY WRITER • HERB TRIMPE PENCILS • AL GORDON INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • MEL YOMTOV COLOURS • MICHAEL CARLIN EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

AND INSIDE SITS THE SPEEDING JET'S LONE PASSENGER--**BUSTER WITWICKY...**

FLYING **JETFIRE** SURE BEATS DRIVING DAD'S TOW TRUCK--AND **WOW!**

TOO BAD I'M NOT HERE JUST FOR A JOY RIDE...

THE **AUTOBOTS** ARE COUNTING ON ME TO HELP THEM OUT...AND I INTEND TO--

--SINCE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME HAS PUT ME IN THE UNIQUE POSITION TO DO **JUST THAT!**

"FIRST, I DISCOVERED THE HEAD OF AUTOBOT LEADER **OPTIMUS PRIME** HELD **CAPTIVE** BY THE **DECEPTICONS.**

"I TRUSTED HIM, WHEN HE ASKED ME TO PUT TWO WIRES TO MY FOREHEAD. BOY, DID I GET FRIED! I DIDN'T STAY AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO ASK OF WHAT HE DID TO ME.*

#ISSUE #24

THUNK!

"--THAT'S THE COMPUTER PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS TRANSFORMERS TO TELE-KINETICALLY MANIPULATE AND INFUSE LIFE INTO ORDINARY METAL!

"LATER, **BUMBLEBEE** EXPLAINED OF HAD TRANSMITTED INTO MY HEAD SOMETHING CALLED THE **CREATION MATRIX--**

"AND THANKS TO THE MATRIX, I WAS ABLE TO BLOW JETFIRE TO BITS WITH JUST A **THOUGHT,** WHEN THE DECEPTS SENT HIM TO KIDNAP ME TO GET THE MATRIX BACK!

"BUMBLEBEE THEN TOLD ME I COULD REPROGRAM JETFIRE'S **BRAIN**--PUT IT UNDER **MY** CONTROL, EVEN GIVE IT **LIFE** IF I WANTED TO!

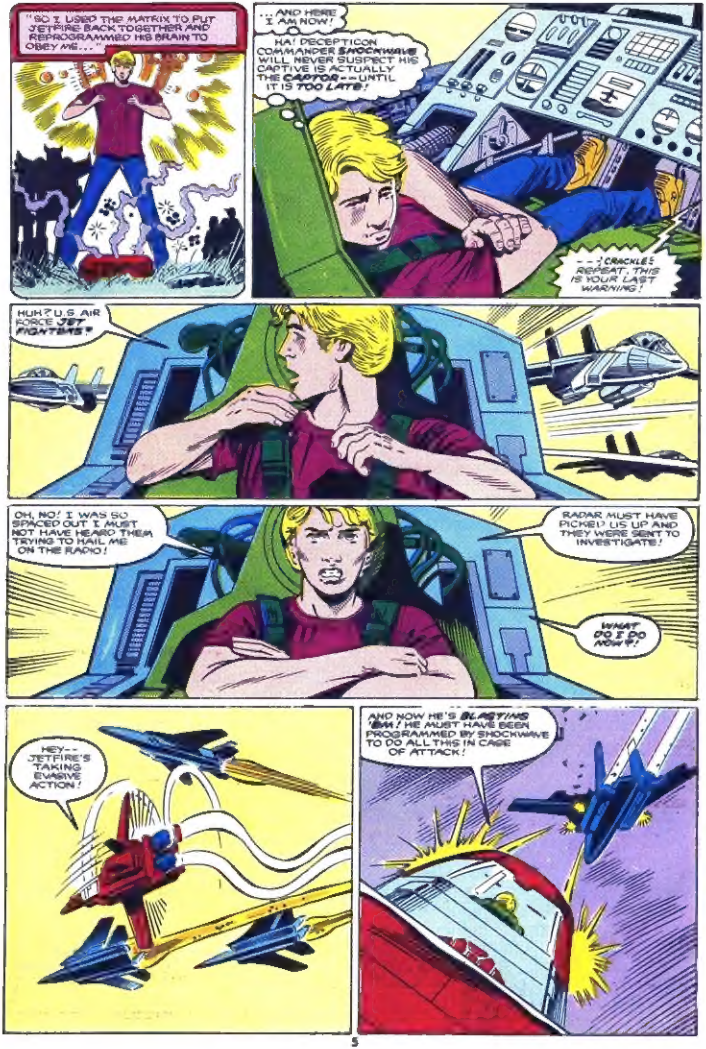
"HE SAID THAT WAY WE COULD **FOOL** THE DECEPTS, LET THEM THINK JETFIRE HAD **SUCCEEDED** IN CAPTURING ME!

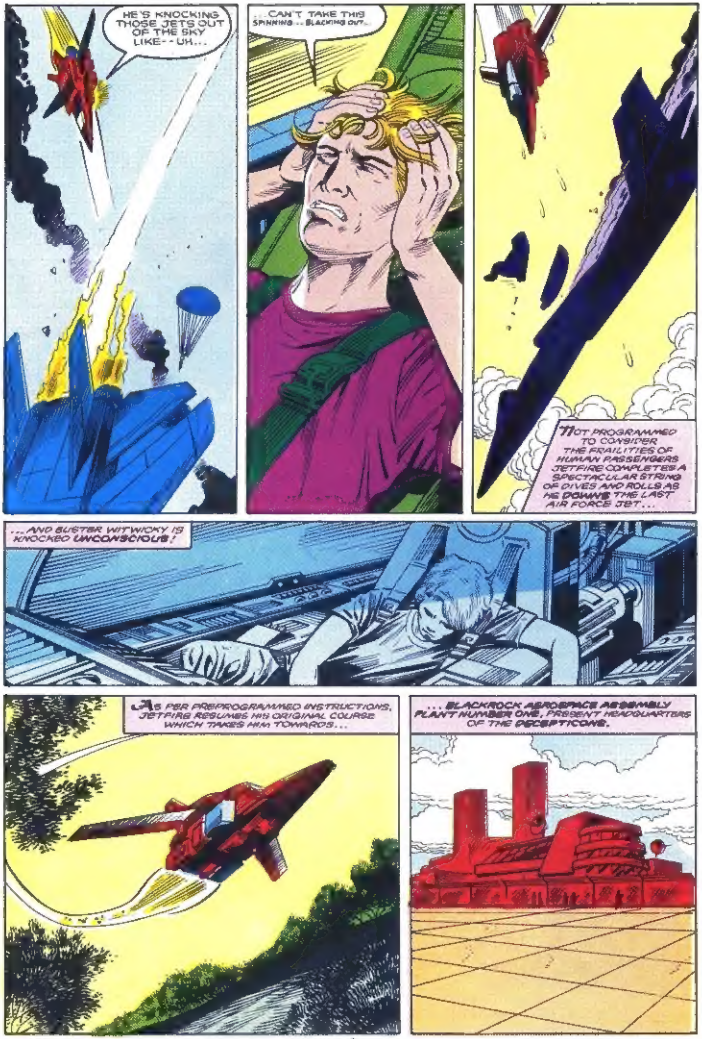
"BUT I WASN'T CERTAIN THAT MY DAD WANTED ME TO GET INVOLVED...

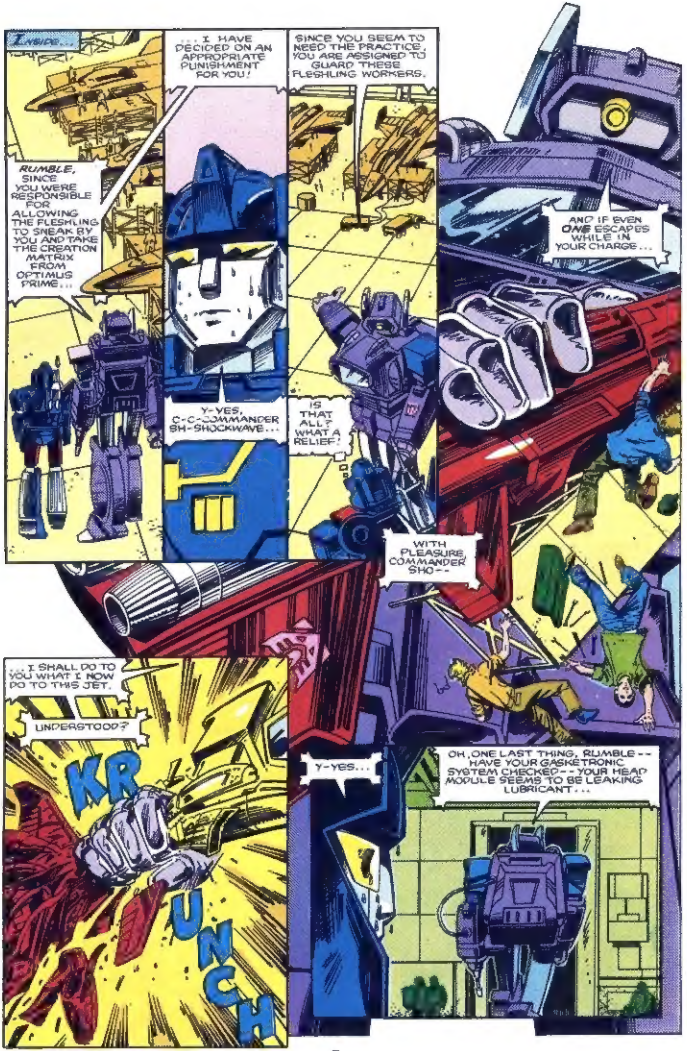
"THEN, WHEN I WAS AMONG THEM, I COULD ORDER JETFIRE TO **FREE** OPTIMUS!

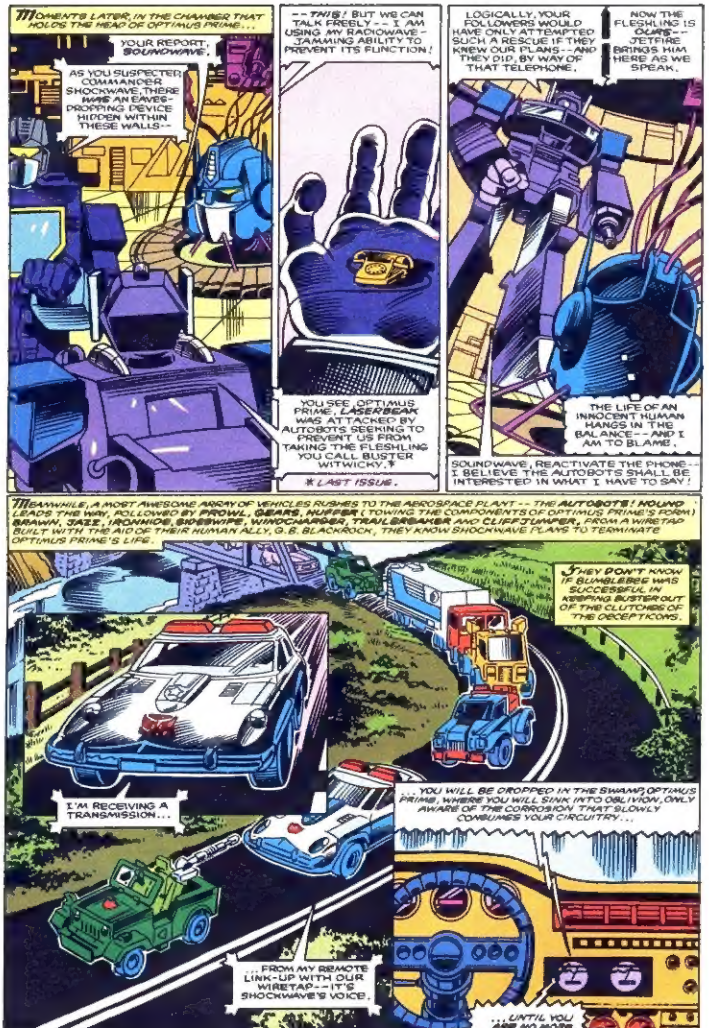
"...UNTIL HE SAID THE CHOICE WAS MINE TO MAKE." *

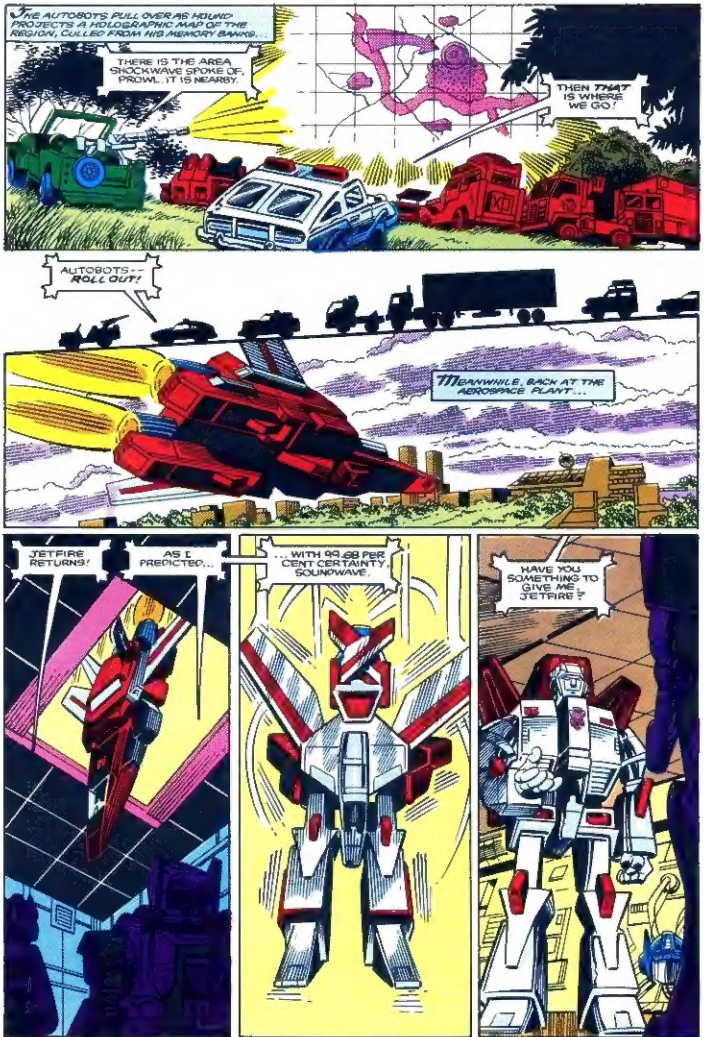
*SEE LAST ISSUE.

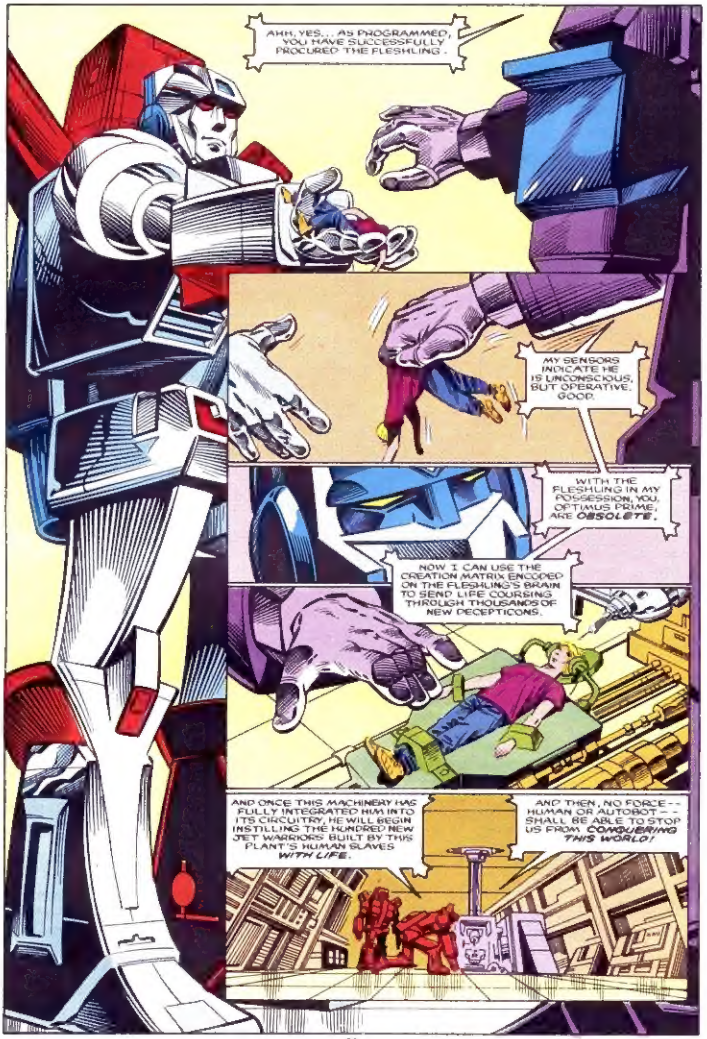

"SO, I USED THE MATRIX TO PUT JETFIRE BACK TOGETHER AND REPROGRAMMED HIS BRAIN TO OBEY ME..."
...AND HERE I AM NOW!
HA! DECEPTICON COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE WILL NEVER SUSPECT HIS CAPTIVE IS ACTUALLY THE CAPTOR--UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!
--CRACKLE-- REPEAT, THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!
HUH? U.S. AIR FORCE JET FIGHTERS?
OH, NO! I WAS SO SPACED OUT I MUST NOT HAVE HEARD THEM TRYING TO HAIL ME ON THE RADIO!
RADAR MUST HAVE PICKED US UP AND THEY WERE SENT TO INVESTIGATE!
WHAT DO I DO NOW?!
HEY--JETFIRE'S TAKING EVASIVE ACTION!
AND NOW HE'S BLASTING 'EM! HE MUST HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED BY SHOCKWAVE TO DO ALL THIS IN CASE OF ATTACK!

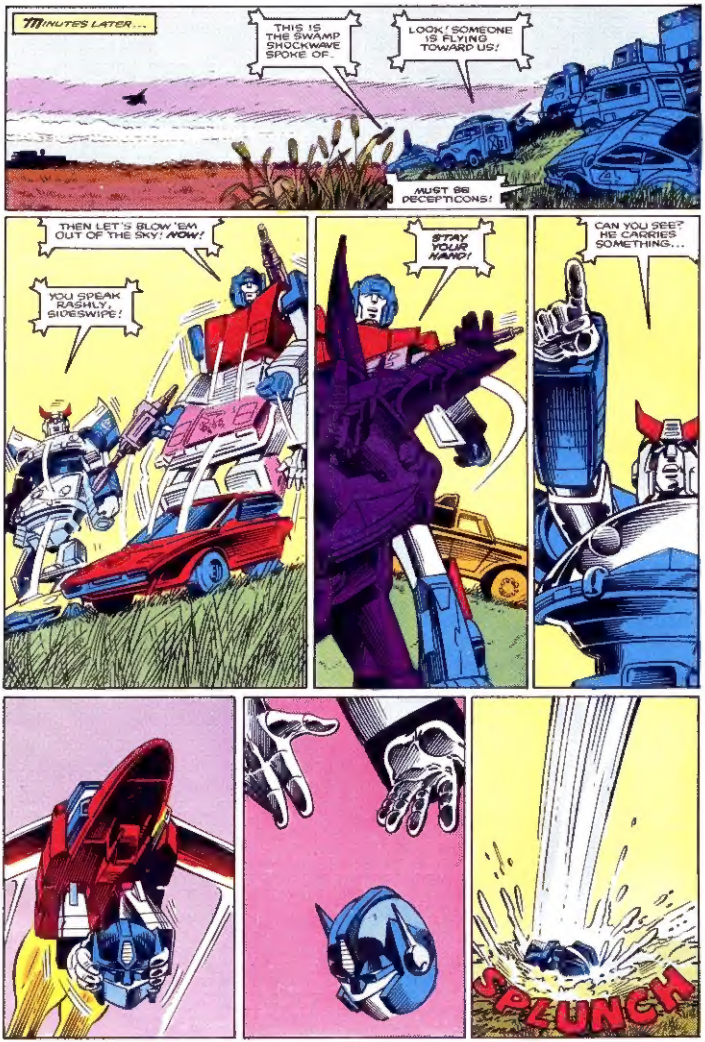

HE'S KNOCKING THOSE JETS OUT OF THE SKY LIKE--UH...
CAN'T TAKE THIS SPINNING...BLACKING OUT...
NOT PROGRAMMED TO CONSIDER THE FRAILITIES OF HUMAN PASSENGERS JETFIRE COMPLETES A SPECTACULAR STRING OF DIVES AND ROLLS AS HE DOWNS THE LAST AIR FORCE JET...
...AND BUSTER WITWICKY IS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS!
AS PER PREPROGRAMMED INSTRUCTIONS, JETFIRE RESUMES HIS ORIGINAL COURSE WHICH TAKES HIM TOWARDS...
...BLACKROCK AEROSPACE ASSEMBLY PLANT NUMBER ONE, PRESENT HEADQUARTERS OF THE DECEPTICONS.

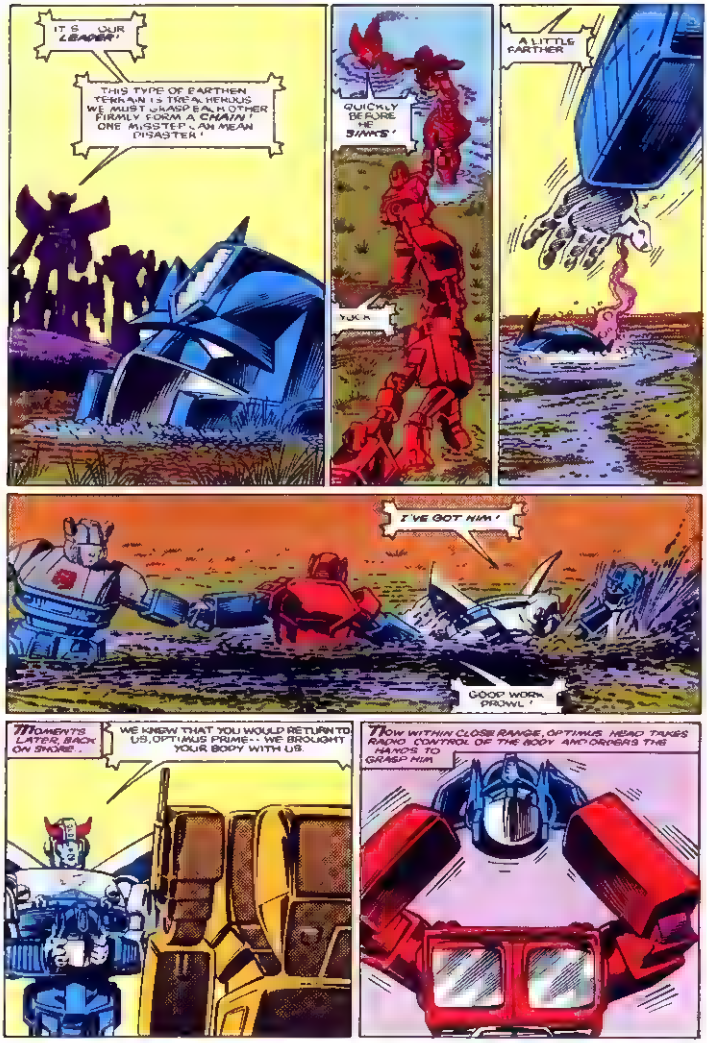

INSIDE...
RUMBLE, SINCE YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING THE FLESHLING TO SNEAK BY YOU AND TAKE THE CREATION MATRIX FROM OPTIMUS PRIME...
...I HAVE DECIDED ON AN APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT FOR YOU!
Y-YES, C-C-COMMANDER SH-SHOCKWAVE...
SINCE YOU SEEM TO NEED THE PRACTICE, YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO GUARD THESE FLESHLING WORKERS.
IS THAT ALL? WHAT A RELIEF!
AND IF EVEN ONE ESCAPES WHILE IN YOUR CHARGE...
WITH PLEASURE, COMMANDER SHO--
I SHALL DO TO YOU WHAT I NOW DO TO THIS JET.
UNDERSTOOD?
KR
UNCH
Y-YES...
OH, ONE LAST THING, RUMBLE-- HAVE YOUR GASKETRONIC SYSTEM CHECKED-- YOUR HEAD MODULE SEEMS TO BE LEAKING LUBRICANT...

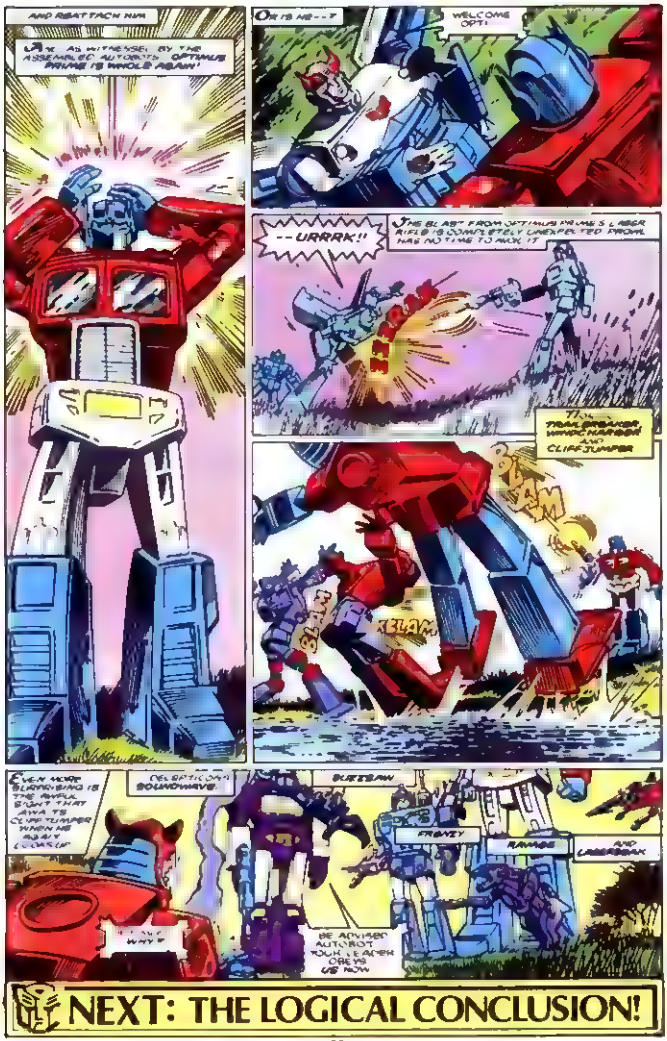

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CHAMBER THAT HOLDS THE HEAD OF OPTIMUS PRIME...
YOUR REPORT, SOUNDWAVE.
AS YOU SUSPECTED, COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE, THERE WAS AN EAVES-DROPPING DEVICE HIDDEN WITHIN THESE WALLS--
--THIS! BUT WE CAN TALK FREELY -- I AM USING MY RADIOWAVE-JAMMING ABILITY TO PREVENT ITS FUNCTION!
YOU SEE, OPTIMUS PRIME, LASERBEAK WAS ATTACKED BY AUTOBOTS SEEKING TO PREVENT US FROM TAKING THE FLESHLING YOU CALL BUSTER WITWICKY.*
* LAST ISSUE.
LOGICALLY, YOUR FOLLOWERS WOULD HAVE ONLY ATTEMPTED SUCH A RESCUE IF THEY KNEW OUR PLANS--AND THEY DID, BY WAY OF THAT TELEPHONE.
NOW THE FLESHLING IS OURS-- JUST TIME BRINGS HIM HERE AS WE SPEAK.
THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT HUMAN HANGS IN THE BALANCE-- AND I AM TO BLAME.
SOUNDWAVE, REACTIVATE THE PHONE-- I BELIEVE THE AUTOBOTS SHALL BE INTERESTED IN WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
MEANWHILE, A MOST AWESOME ARRAY OF VEHICLES RUSHES TO THE AEROSPACE PLANT -- THE AUTOBOTS! HOUND LEADS THE WAY, FOLLOWED BY PROWL, GEARS, HUFFER (TOWING THE COMPONENTS OF OPTIMUS PRIME'S FORM) BRAWN, JAZZ, IRONHIDE, SIDESWIPE, WINDCHARGER, TRAILBREAKER AND CLIFFJUMPER, FROM A WIRETAP BUILT WITH THE AID OF THEIR HUMAN ALLY, G.B. BLACKROCK, THEY KNOW SHOCKWAVE PLANS TO TERMINATE OPTIMUS PRIME'S LIFE.
THEY DON'T KNOW IF BUMBLEBEE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN KEEPING BUSTER OUT OF THE CLUTCHES OF THE DECEPTICONS.
I'M RECEIVING A TRANSMISSION...
...FROM MY REMOTE LINK-UP WITH OUR WIRETAP-- IT'S SHOCKWAVE'S VOICE.
...YOU WILL BE DROPPED IN THE SWAMP, OPTIMUS PRIME, WHERE YOU WILL SINK INTO OBLIVION, ONLY AWARE OF THE CORROSION THAT SLOWLY CONSUMES YOUR CIRCUITRY...
...UNTIL YOU ARE NO MORE.


THE AUTOBOTS PULL OVER AS HOUND PROJECTS A HOLOGRAPHIC MAP OF THE REGION, CULLED FROM HIS MEMORY BANKS...
THERE IS THE AREA SHOCKWAVE SPOKE OF, PROWL. IT IS NEARBY.
THEN THAT IS WHERE WE GO!
AUTOBOTS--- ROLL OUT!
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE AEROSPACE PLANT...
JETFIRE RETURNS!
AS I PREDICTED...
...WITH 99.68 PER CENT CERTAINTY, SOUNDWAVE.
HAVE YOU SOMETHING TO GIVE ME, JETFIRE?


AHH, YES... AS PROGRAMMED, YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PROCURED THE FLESHLING.
MY SENSORS INDICATE HE IS UNCONSCIOUS, BUT OPERATIVE. GOOD.
WITH THE FLESHLING IN MY POSSESSION, YOU, OPTIMUS PRIME, ARE OBSOLETE.
NOW I CAN USE THE CREATION MATRIX ENCODED ON THE FLESHLING'S BRAIN TO SEND LIFE COURSING THROUGH THOUSANDS OF NEW DECEPTICONS.
AND ONCE THIS MACHINERY HAS FULLY INTEGRATED HIM INTO ITS CIRCUITRY, HE WILL BEGIN INSTILLING THE HUNDRED NEW JET WARRIORS BUILT BY THIS PLANT'S HUMAN SLAVES WITH LIFE.
AND THEN, NO FORCE -- HUMAN OR AUTOBOT -- SHALL BE ABLE TO STOP US FROM CONQUERING THIS WORLD!


MINUTES LATER...
THIS IS THE SWAMP SHOCKWAVE SPOKE OF.
LOOK! SOMEONE IS FLYING TOWARD US!
MUST BE DECEPTICONS!
THEN LET'S BLOW 'EM OUT OF THE SKY! WOW!
YOU SPEAK RASHLY, SIDESWIPE!
STAY YOUR HAND!
CAN YOU SEE? HE CARRIES SOMETHING...
SPLUNCH

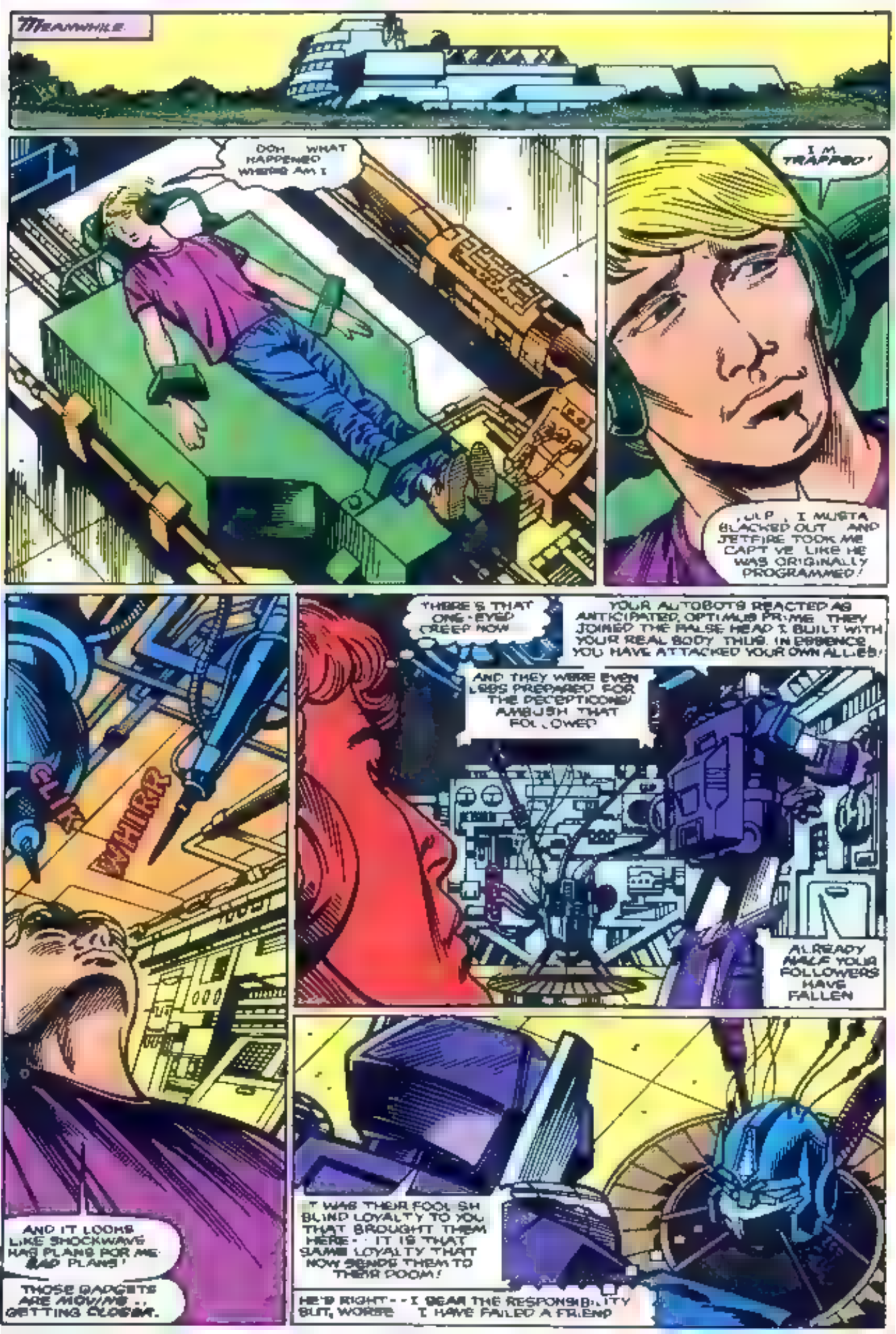

IT'S OUR LEADER!
THIS TYPE OF EARTHEN TERRAIN IS TREACHEROUS. WE MUST GRASP EACH OTHER FIRMLY. FORM A CHAIN! ONE MISSTEP CAN MEAN DISASTER!
QUICKLY BEFORE HE SINKS!
YUCK
A LITTLE FARTHER
I'VE GOT HIM!
GOOD WORK, PROWL!
77 MOMENTS LATER, BACK ON SHORE...
WE KNEW THAT YOU WOULD RETURN TO US, OPTIMUS PRIME-- WE BROUGHT YOUR BODY WITH US.
77 NOW WITHIN CLOSE RANGE, OPTIMUS HEAD TAKES RADIO CONTROL OF THE BODY AND OVERSEES THE HANDS TO GRASP HIM

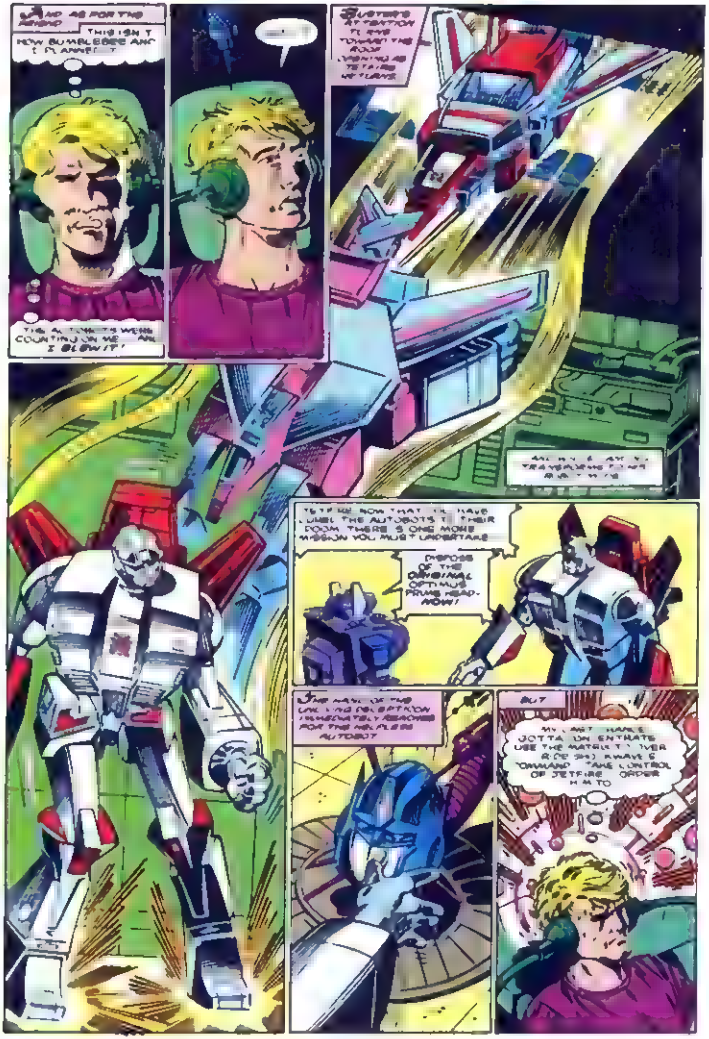

AND REATTACH HIM
OK! AS WITNESSED BY THE ASSEMBLED AUTOBOTS, OPTIMUS PRIME IS WHOLE AGAIN!
OH IS HE--?
WELCOME OPTI
--URRRK!!
THE BLAST FROM OPTIMUS PRIME'S LASER RIFLE IS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED FROM HAS NO TIME TO JACK IT
TRAILBREAKER, WINDCHARGER AND CLIFFJUMPER
BLAM
KBLAM
BLAM
EVEN MORE SLAMBANG IS THE AWFUL SIGHT THAT AWAITS CLIFFJUMPER WHEN HE FINALLY LOOKS UP
OH OPTICON'S SOUNDWAVE
SLIDEBAR
FRENZY
RAMJAC
AND LUGNEBEAK
I SAY, WHY?
BE ADVISED AUTOBOT TOUCH LEADER ORDERS US NOW
NEXT: THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION!

MARVEL™
21st Dec.'85
№40 30p

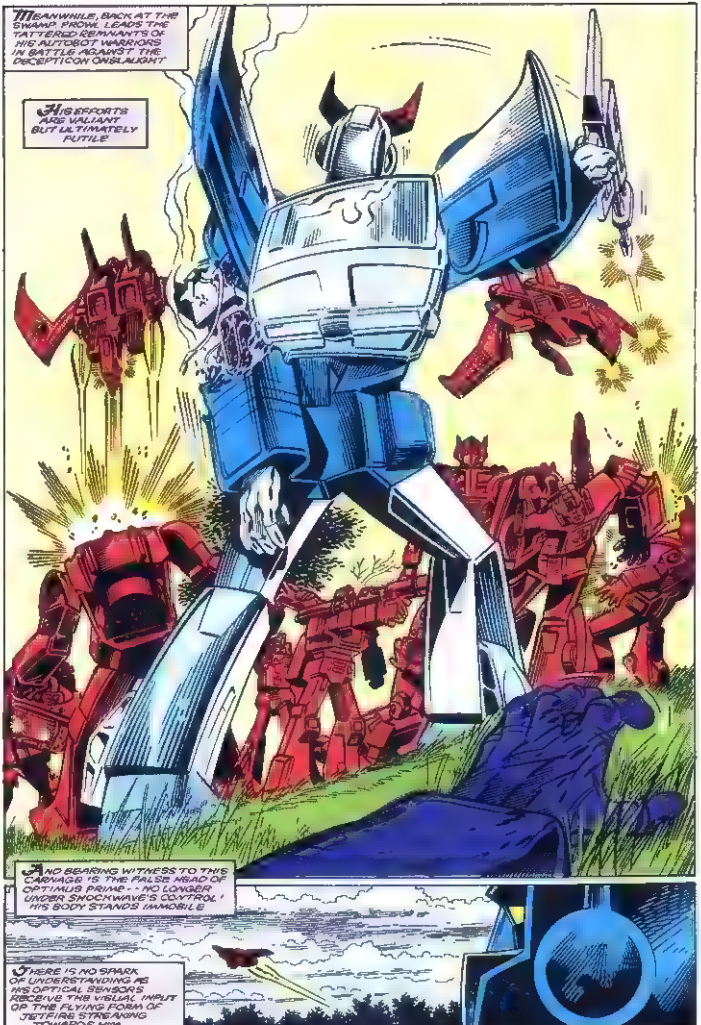
THE TRANSFORMERS™

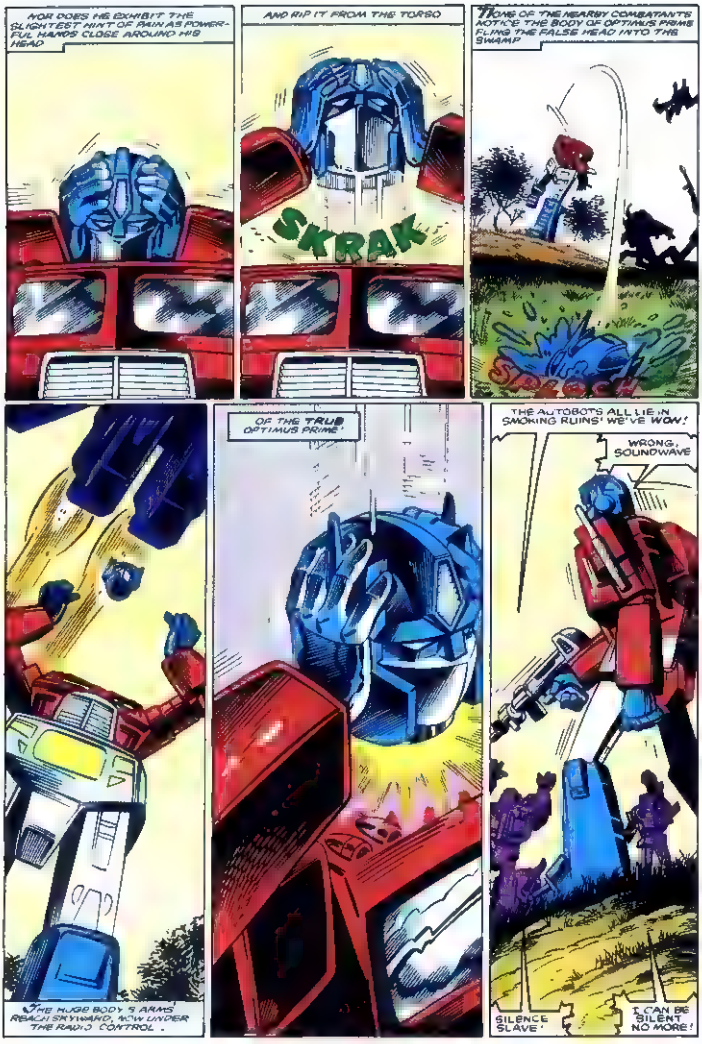
HEROIC AUTOBOT

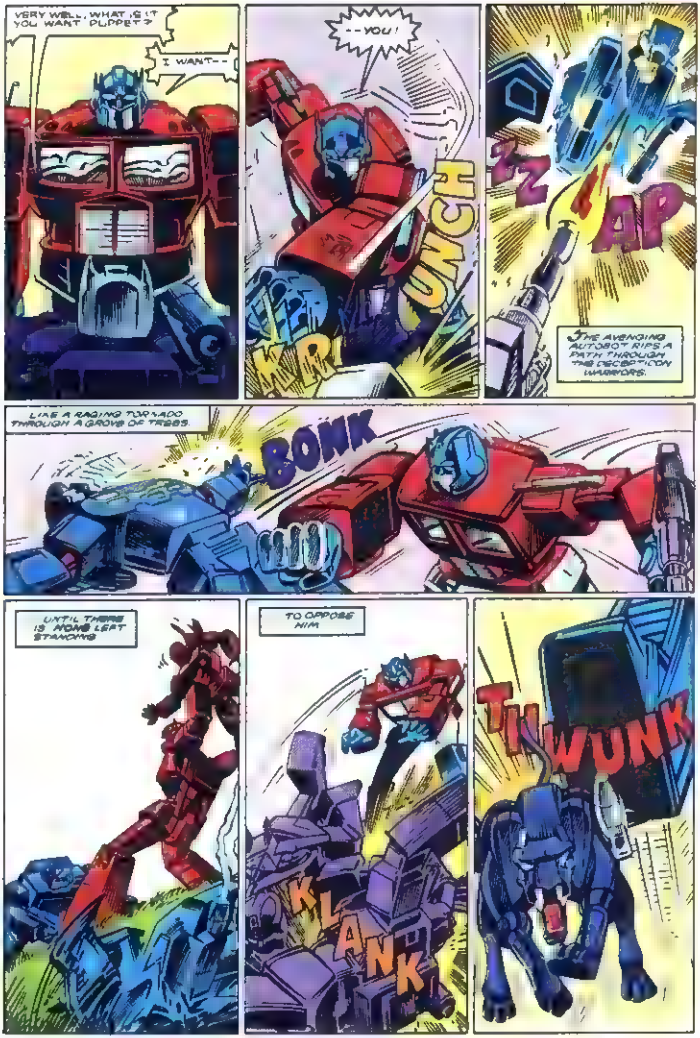

MEANWHILE...
OOH WHAT HAPPENED WHERE AM I
I'M TRAPPED!
GULP, I MUSTA BLACKED OUT AND JETFIRE TOOK ME CAPTIVE LIKE HE WAS ORIGINALLY PROGRAMMED!
CLIK
WHIRR
AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHOCKWAVE HAS PLANS FOR ME. BAD PLANS!
THOSE GADGETS ARE MOVING... GETTING CLOSER.
THERE'S THAT ONE-EYED CREEP NOW
YOUR AUTOBOTS REACTED AS ANTICIPATED, OPTIMUS PRIME. THEY JOINED THE FALSE HEAD I BUILT WITH YOUR REAL BODY THUS, IN ESSENCE, YOU HAVE ATTACKED YOUR OWN ALLIES!
AND THEY WERE EVEN LESS PREPARED FOR THE DECEPTICONS' AMBUSH THAT FOLLOWED
ALREADY HALF YOUR FOLLOWERS HAVE FALLEN
IT WAS THEIR FOOLISH BLIND LOYALTY TO YOU THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE - IT IS THAT SAME LOYALTY THAT NOW SENDS THEM TO THEIR DOOM!
HE'S RIGHT - - I BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY BUT, WORSE I HAVE FAILED A FRIEND

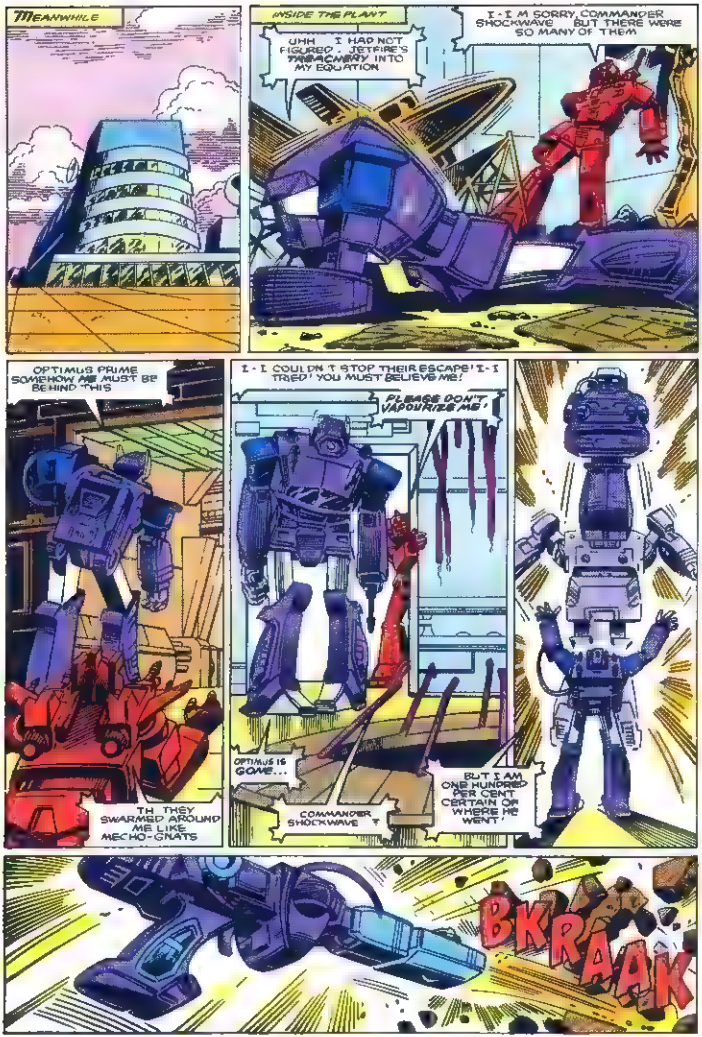

AND AS FOR THE REST...
THIS ISN'T HOW BUMBLEBEE AND I PLANNED IT
THE AUTOBOTS WERE COUNTING ON ME AND I BLEW IT!
SUNSTREAKER'S ATTENTION IS ON THE TOWER AT THE ROOM WHERE HE'S TAKEN HIS PLANE
AS HE AND THE TRANSFORMING PLANE RACE TOWARD THE
TETSUO NOW THAT YOU HAVE LURED THE AUTOBOTS TO THEIR DOOM THERE'S ONE MORE MISSION YOU MUST UNDERTAKE
DISPOSE OF THE ORIGINAL OPTIMUS PRIME HEAD-ARCHIVE!
THE MAIN OF THE UNLIVING DESTRUCTION IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FOR THE HELPLESS AUTOBOT
BUT
MY LAST HANDLE GOTTA ON ENTRATE USE THE MATRIX TO OVER RIDE THE COMMAND TAKE CONTROL OF JETFIRE ORDER
HMM

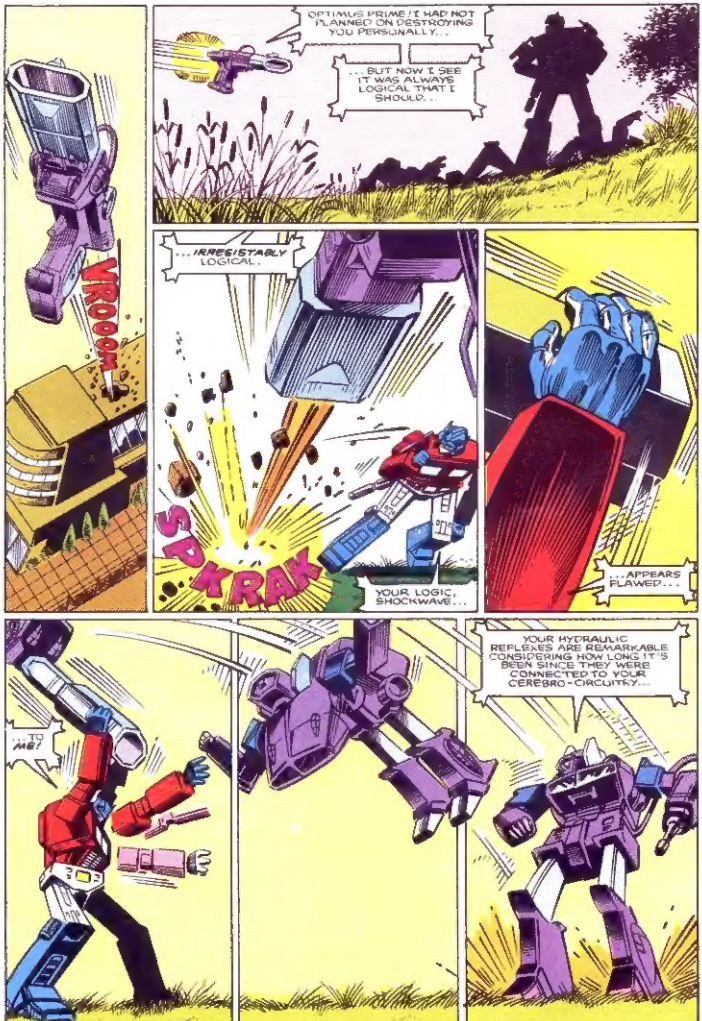
"SMASH SHOCKWAVE!"
BKOW
C-COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE
DIDJA DIDJA SEE THAT?
TALK TO ME COMMANDER
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALL ALONE
WITH ALL THESE HUMANS
C'MON LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
ONLY THIS GUY'S IN OUR WAY -- BUT NOT FOR LONG!
LET'S GET 'EM!
MMMMMM!
NOW TRANSFORM, JETFIRE -- AND TAKE OPTIMUS TO WHERE YOU LEFT HIS BODY!
CLUNK
HMM... MAYBE I'LL PULL THIS ONE OUT YET!

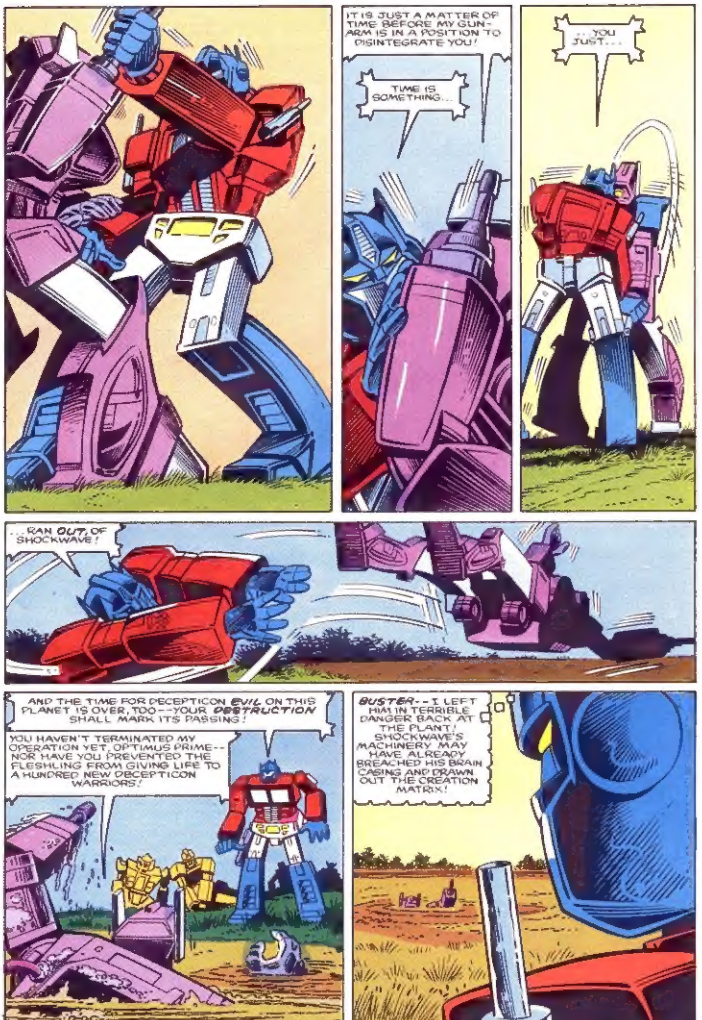

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE SWAMP, PROWL LEADS THE TATTERED REMNANTS OF HIS AUTOBOT WARRIORS IN BATTLE AGAINST THE DECEPTICON ONSLAUGHT
HIS EFFORTS ARE VALIANT BUT ULTIMATELY FUTILE
AND BEARING WITNESS TO THIS CARNAGE IS THE FALSE HEAD OF OPTIMUS PRIME - - NO LONGER UNDER SHOCKWAVE'S CONTROL, HIS BODY STANDS IMMOBILE
THERE IS NO SPARK OF UNDERSTANDING AS HIS OPTICAL SENSORS RECEIVE THE VISUAL INPUT OF THE FLYING FORM OF JETFIRE STREAKING TOWARDS HIM.

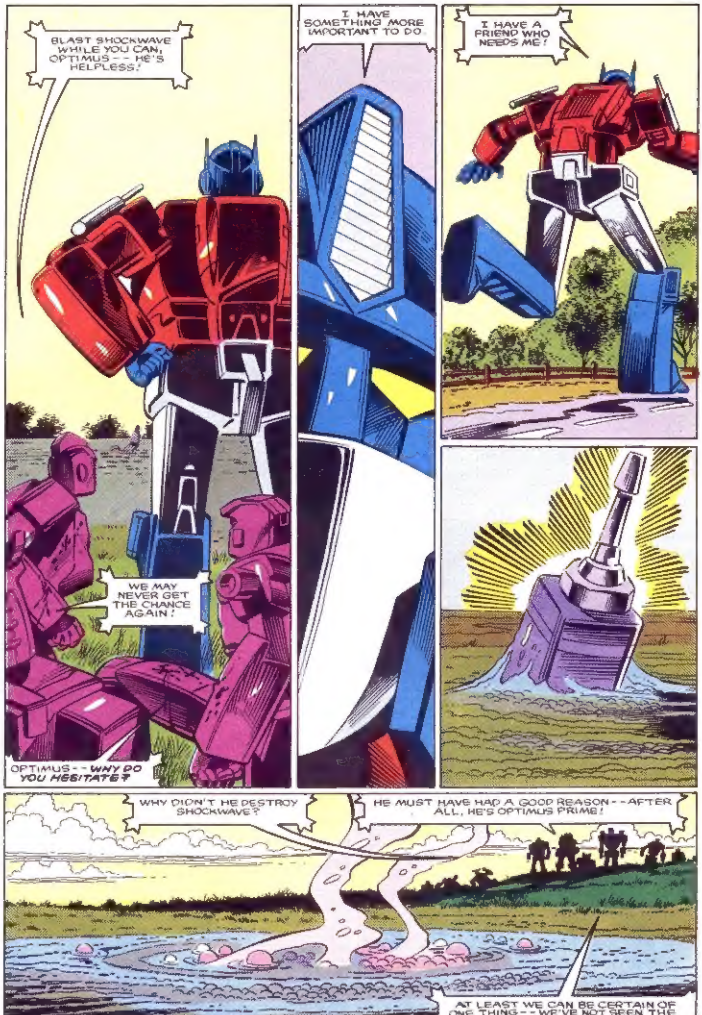

NOR DOES HE EXHIBIT THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF PAIN AS POWERFUL HANDS CLOSE AROUND HIS HEAD
AND RIP IT FROM THE TORSO
SKRAK
NONE OF THE NEARBY COMBATANTS NOTICE THE BODY OF OPTIMUS PRIME FLING THE FALSE HEAD INTO THE SWAMP
SPLASH
THE HUGE BODY'S ARMS REACH SKYWARD, NOW UNDER THE RADIO CONTROL.
OF THE TRUE OPTIMUS PRIME!
THE AUTOBOTS ALL LIE IN SMOKING RUINS! WE'VE WON!
WRONG, SOUNDWAVE
SILENCE SLAVE!
I CAN BE SILENT NO MORE!

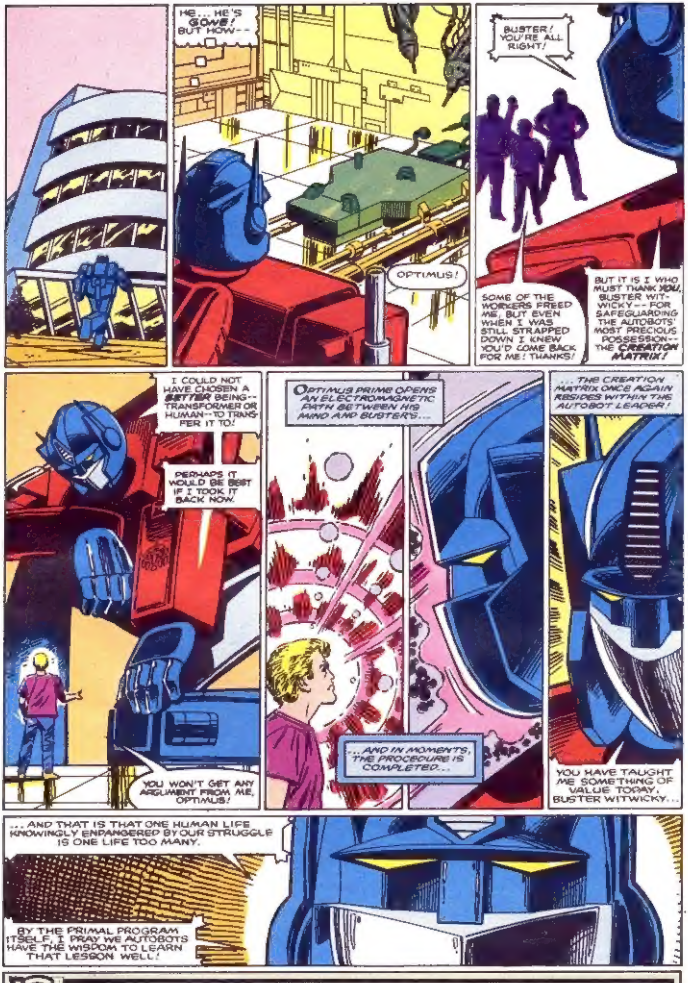

VERY WELL. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, PUPPET?
I WANT--
--YOU!
PUNCH
ZZZ
ZAP
THE AVENGING AUTOBOT RIPS A PATH THROUGH THE DECEPTICON WARRIORS.
LIKE A RAGING TORNADO THROUGH A GROVE OF TREES.
BONK
UNTIL THERE IS NONE LEFT STANDING
TO OPPOSE HIM
KLANK
TI WUNK


MEANWHILE
INSIDE THE PLANT
UMM... I HAD NOT FIGURED JETFIRE'S TREACHERY INTO MY EQUATION
I - I'M SORRY COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE BUT THERE WERE SO MANY OF THEM
OPTIMUS PRIME SOMEHOW ME MUST BE BEHIND THIS
TH THEY SWARMED AROUND ME LIKE MECHO-GNATS
I - I COULDN'T STOP THEIR ESCAPE! I - I TRIED! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
PLEASE DON'T VAPOURIZE ME!
OPTIMUS IS GONE...
COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE ?
BUT I AM ONE HUNDRED PER CENT CERTAIN OF WHERE HE WENT!
BKRAAK


VROOOM
OPTIMUS PRIME! I HAD NOT PLANNED ON DESTROYING YOU PERSONALLY...
...BUT NOW I SEE IT WAS ALWAYS LOGICAL THAT I SHOULD...
...IRRESISTABLY LOGICAL.
SPKRAK
YOUR LOGIC, SHOCKWAVE...
...APPEARS FLAWED...
...TO ME?
YOUR HYDRAULIC REFLEXES ARE REMARKABLE CONSIDERING HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE THEY WERE CONNECTED TO YOUR CEREBRO-CIRCUITRY...


IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MY GUN-ARM IS IN A POSITION TO DISINTEGRATE YOU!
TIME IS SOMETHING...
...YOU JUST...
...RAN OUT OF SHOCKWAVE!
AND THE TIME FOR DECEPTICON EVIL ON THIS PLANET IS OVER, TOO--YOUR DESTRUCTION SHALL MARK ITS PASSING!
YOU HAVEN'T TERMINATED MY OPERATION YET, OPTIMUS PRIME--NOR HAVE YOU PREVENTED THE FLESHLING FROM GIVING LIFE TO A HUNDRED NEW DECEPTICON WARRIORS!
BUSTER--I LEFT HIM IN TERRIBLE DANGER BACK AT THE PLANT! SHOCKWAVE'S MACHINERY MAY HAVE ALREADY BREACHED HIS BRAIN CASING AND DRAWN OUT THE CREATION MATRIX!


BLAST SHOCKWAVE WHILE YOU CAN, OPTIMUS--HE'S HELPLESS!
WE MAY NEVER GET THE CHANCE AGAIN!
OPTIMUS--WHY DO YOU HESITATE?
I HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO
I HAVE A FRIEND WHO NEEDS ME!
WHY DIDN'T HE DESTROY SHOCKWAVE?
HE MUST HAVE HAD A GOOD REASON--AFTER ALL, HE'S OPTIMUS PRIME!
AT LEAST WE CAN BE CERTAIN OF ONE THING--WE'VE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF SHOCKWAVE!


HE... HE'S GONE! BUT HOW--
OPTIMUS!
BUSTER! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
SOME OF THE WORKERS FREED ME. BUT EVEN WHEN I WAS STILL STRAPPED DOWN I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK FOR ME! THANKS!
BUT IT IS I WHO MUST THANK YOU, BUSTER WITWICKY -- FOR SAFEGUARDING THE AUTOBOTS' MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION -- THE CREATION MATRIX!
I COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN A BETTER BEING -- TRANSFORMER OR HUMAN -- TO TRANSFER IT TO!
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST IF I TOOK IT BACK NOW.
YOU WON'T GET ANY ARGUMENT FROM ME, OPTIMUS!
OPTIMUS PRIME OPENS AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PATH BETWEEN HIS MIND AND BUSTER'S...
...AND IN MOMENTS, THE PROCEDURE IS COMPLETED...
...THE CREATION MATRIX ONCE AGAIN RESIDES WITHIN THE AUTOBOT LEADER!
YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME SOMETHING OF VALUE TODAY, BUSTER WITWICKY...
...AND THAT IS THAT ONE HUMAN LIFE KNOWINGLY ENDANGERED BY OUR STRUGGLE IS ONE LIFE TOO MANY.
BY THE PRIMAL PROGRAM ITSELF, I PRAY WE AUTOBOTS HAVE THE WISDOM TO LEARN THAT LESSON WELL!

NEXT: CHRISTMAS BREAKer!